



# Partner Notes

From the Office of Community Partnerships



News on partnerships, volunteerism, donations and events in DC Public Schools

November 24, 2008

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## Welcome

Welcome to the premier issue of the Office of Community Partnerships' e-newsletter. Our mission is to foster the full participation of parents, partners and the community to provide schools with external resources and experiences that impact student achievement.

It is truly our pleasure to work with so many wonderful community partners who make a real difference in the lives of DC public school students.

This monthly e-newsletter will provide partner spotlights each month, list our most recent donations and requests, as well as dates for upcoming special events and updates about our volunteer network.

## Partner Spotlight

### The Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS)



The Washington Performing Arts Society (WPAS) and the D.C. Public Schools, in collaboration with Jazz at Lincoln Center, have launched **The Capitol Jazz Project**, an important step in supporting music education for all students in the District of Columbia.

Through *The Capitol Jazz Project*, students hone their listening, performing, improvising, composing, arranging, music reading, and notation skills.

The *Capitol Jazz Project* is being implemented at Ron Brown, Deal, Hardy and Hart Middle School with a total enrollment of more than 250 music students. A true collaboration, *The Capitol Jazz Project* brings the

combined resources and expertise of WPAS, the D.C. Public Schools, and Jazz at Lincoln Center to create a model music education program.

"We find the longer they stay in the instrumental program, the better they do in school. [*The Capitol Jazz Project*] connects the children to professional [jazz] curriculum, and a richness that we haven't had time to build - we find it very important to us." - *Patrick Pope, Principal of Hardy Middle School*

Carol Bogash is the Director of Education for the [Washington Performing Arts Society](#).

### Everybody Wins (EW)

Everybody Wins! (EW!) is a non-profit organization devoted to promoting children's literacy and a love of learning.



**The Power Lunch** program pairs a volunteer reading mentor with a student for a shared reading time one day per week.

EW! DC has power lunch programs in 11 DC public schools with 4,000 volunteers serving 943 students.

Some of their reading mentors have been participating for over 15 years! This year, staff members from Chancellor Rhee's office are reading mentors at Walker Jones ES.

"I couldn't think of a better way to spend my lunch hour!" - Adams Elementary Mentor

Mary Salander is the Executive Director of [Everybody Wins! DC](#).

## Events

DC Public School students attend many special events throughout the year. Last August DCPS hosted its own special event, Beautification Day 2008, in partnership with Target and Fannie Mae.

Thanks to the hard work of 2100 community volunteers and the generous support of our sponsors, 113 schools received that extra special touch just in time for the first day of school!

Upcoming events include:

- **November 21st: Grand Re-Opening of the National Museum of American History**
- **November 21st: GeoPlunge Geography Tournament**
- **November 21st: Howard University B2B Conference**
- **November 22nd: Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon**
- **December 2nd: Rotary Club College Fair @ the MLK Library**



Read more about other upcoming events in our next issue...

## Donations

Many individuals and organizations make cash and in-kind donations to our schools throughout the year. If you would like to make a donation, contact our office by emailing [dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov](mailto:dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov).

We greatly appreciate all types of support. However, used items, especially technology-related items, will be accepted on a case by case basis.

### Wishtlist

#### HD Woodson Senior Prom

The students and staff at HD Woodson are seeking someone to donate a space for their senior prom the week of May 11th or May 18th for 150 students and their guests. If you would like to donate your space or help them rent another space, please send an email to: [dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov](mailto:dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov)

#### Shaw @Garnet Patterson MS College Connection Weekend

Principal Brian Betts is planning to take a group of students to UNC-Greensboro for a college visit. While at the university, students will be paired with a student-athlete to attend classes, eat in the dining hall, and visit with admissions staff. The visit ends with the students as special guests at a college basketball game. If you would like to provide financial support for this college experience, please send an email to: [dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov](mailto:dcpshpartnerships@dc.gov)

#### Teacher Appreciation

We love our teachers! Principals recognize and want to reward the great work DCPS teachers do each and every day. Several of our schools are looking for partners to host a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast or



Lunch. If you would like to help a school by hosting a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast or Lunch, please send an email to: [dcpspartnerships@dc.gov](mailto:dcpspartnerships@dc.gov)

**Thank you very much...**

### **Gifts to DCPS**

Bureau of Economic Analysis - 60 boxes of paper  
Debevoise & Plimpton, LLP - Binders  
Eastern Motors - 2008 Hyundai to reward one DCPS teacher  
Fannie Mae - Funds to support Beautification Day  
Greater DC Cares - Tools for Beautification Day  
Hewlett Packard - HP Photosmart printer  
HJJ Global - Checktap energy saving device  
ING Direct - 50 bicycles  
Keep Washington Beautiful - 10,000 garbage bags for Beautification Day  
Kingston Technology - 705 USB drives  
Left Hand Networks - 50 flash drives  
Meridian Center - Space for Embassy Adoption Program Workshops  
Network Hardware Resale - 200 Cisco switches  
Office Depot & America's Promise - 3,000 backpacks  
Target - 50 boxes of notebooks for DCPS middle schools  
Target - 2,000 t-shirts, water, snacks for Beautification Day  
Unotron- Washable keyboard and mouse sets  
Verizon - 60 tote bags for Embassy Adoption Program

### **Gifts to specific schools**

First Book Marketplace - \$1,000 book credit for Leckie ES  
General Contractors of America - School uniforms for Phelps HS  
Heart of America, Washington Nationals, UPS - Library remodel and books for Garrison ES  
La Salle ES PTA - Office furniture and sports equipment for La Salle ES  
Washington Nationals - Baseball tickets for Garrison ES  
Welch Consulting - Office furniture for Marshall EC  
Cisco, Dell, EMC, Freestate Electric, Intel Corporation, IP Celerate, Netcraftsmen, REA Corp, Red Hawk, Status Solutions, The 250INC & SigTechs Group, Vision Security - Technology and labor for Jefferson MS

## **Volunteer Network**



### **Look Who's Volunteering**

50 staff members from Accenture tutor students at Cardozo SHS.

19 staff members from Chancellor Rhee's office are reading mentors at Walker Jones ES through Everybody Wins! DC.

Arent Fox, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. Arnold & Porter and AIR will soon begin tutoring in DC Public Schools.

### **How to Become a DCPS Volunteer**

As a potential DCPS volunteer you can:

- **Reach out to a particular school to see where volunteers are needed;**
- **Check to see if your employer has a volunteer program in our schools;**
- **Join a group that has an established volunteer activity with DCPS;**
- **Plan to participate during one of our service days like Beautification Day.**

We take the safety and well-being of our students very seriously and require all volunteers to submit a negative TB test and undergo a background check (**not required for service days**) before they are allowed to serve in our buildings.

**Step1:** Decide to become a volunteer in one of the ways mentioned above.

**Step 2:** Complete the volunteer application and visit 825 North Capitol St., 9th floor to submit your application along with a negative TB test result and a photo ID.

**Step 3:** Receive your confirmation letter once your background check has cleared.

**Step 4:** Contact our office to learn about existing volunteer opportunities

**Step 5:** Volunteer at DC Public Schools!

**Processing Hours:** Tuesday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm; Thursday: 9:00 am- Noon

*Coming Soon!*

Volunteer orientation sessions with Greater DC Cares

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact the Volunteer Program at 202-442-5447 or email [dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov](mailto:dcpsvolunteers@dc.gov).

## Send Us Your Story

Do you have a story that should be in our newsletter? Please share your donations, wish list, events and volunteer updates for publication in future issues. Send information to [dcpspartnerships@dc.gov](mailto:dcpspartnerships@dc.gov).

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